

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 ITC-01 /069 W
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R 311854Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2646
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD
GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EC
SUBJECT: EC PROPOSAL FOR REGISTRATION OF SEED MULTIPLI-
CATION CONTRACTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

1. J. T. READ, MEMBER OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP, ADAMANTLY
ASSURED US THAT THE PROPOSAL IF PASSED WOULD NOT BE USED
TO RESTRAIN TRADE. THAT WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THE PRO-
POSAL AND ANY FORM OF TRADE RESTRICTION WOULD BE
VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY UK.
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2. THE GAP IN TRADE STATISTICS WAS A REAL CONCERN AND
THE PRESENT PROPOSAL MIGHT BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, HE FELT
THE MAJORITY OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP WAS AGAINST IT AND
THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD DIE AS IT DID IN 74. HE NOTED
THAT IN THAT YEAR THE US TRADE WAS ALSO VERY CONCERNED
AND THAT MAFF OFFICIALS HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY AND EX-

PLAINED IN GREAT DETAIL TO AN FAS REPRESENTATIVE THAT
INTENT OF PROPOSAL WAS SOLELY FOR MARKET INTELLIGENCE
AND NOT MARKET CONTROL. READ FAILED TO APPRECIATE UK
SEED TRADE WORRY.

3. PRESENT REGULATION (REG. 2358) ALREADY PROVIDES FOR
SUCH REGISTRATION BUT HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED. IN
HIS OPINION, THE COMMISSION IS KEEN ON THE PROPOSAL AND
NOT THE DELEGATES. HE QUESTIONS THE EC'S 50 PERCENT
FIGURE FOR FIRMS FAVORING THE MOVE. THE UK TRADE
STRONGLY OPPOSES IT, PREFERRING TOTAL FREE TRADE. NONE
OF THE EC TRADE WOULD TOLERATE ANY FORM OF LICENSING.
HE BELIEVES GENERAL TRADE RESISTANCE TO THE PROPOSAL
WILL KILL IT ON FEBRUARY 7.

4. EVEN COMPULSORY REGISTRATION WOULD NOT ENTIRELY
REMOVE DISPARITY IN STATISTICS. CONTRACTS AFTER BEING
REGISTERED MAY NOT BE TAKEN UP AND CITED DESTINATIONS
MAY BE ALTERED. MULTIPLICATION CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE TO
BE MORE CLOSELY DEFINED AND THE PROPOSAL WOULD COVER
AT THE MOST 5 OR 6 MAJOR SPECIES. HE CONCURS THAT ABOUT
80 PERCENT OF SEED IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY ARE
PRODUCED THROUGH SEED MULTIPLICATION CONTRACTS. IN
SHORT, HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THE MARKET INTELLIGENCE
POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSAL WAS SUSPECT BUT WORTH A TRY.
HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE.
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BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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